



# LARC



Volume 49, Number 5

May 2009

## President's Message

*Greetings and 73 to all readers of LARC!*

We have two important events to consider at our next meeting:

### 1. Field Day and who will be our chairman. So far, no one has stepped forward.

We need a chairman for each task. I will be seeking volunteers for both positions.

Field day is an important annual event and it is a day when the club can demonstrate its readiness for emergency communications. We all need to become familiar with AMOS, the new antenna, trailer and the generator. In particular, we (myself included) need to learn how to operate the radios. Before we always had John Martin W5SE (KA5BSE) SK to oversee Field Day, he knew all the aspects of doing this event and a good leader, he is not forgotten but we must move on. When the hurricane hits we will need the ability to function efficiently. Learning the peculiarities of any radio is something that Field Day can accomplish.

We don't need a full blown effort, although that is preferred. Just a couple of people getting AMOS out and checking out the equipment and making a few contacts is sufficient. However, the more the merrier. It's always good to watch someone else set up. Then you will be able to do it next time.

It not that, then a few of us can operate from the EOC (where it's air conditioned.)

The full blown efforts of the last several field days have been great successes. Let's try for a repeat.

### 2. Possible relocation of the 146.82 W5DDL repeater.

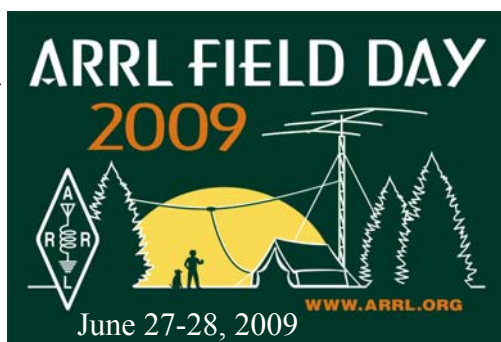
The 82 repeater has been at the Datacom site (now Stratos Global Corporation) and may need to be moved soon. Thanks to Dick - WA6MDI, Wayne - W5YNE and Randall Magnon our climber, the 04 repeater is in good shape and can function as the main club repeater while the 82 is being relocated.

We have a couple of suggestions that are being looked into. A person from the club that is knowledgeable about such things should take this over. It won't be me. You have unfortunately elected a leader who is vastly inexperienced with radio stuff. I'm learning.

See you next Thursday.

-73

John, W4JHC



### AARA GENERAL MEETING

Thursday May 7, 2009

7:00 PM

Red Cross Building  
101 N. Pat St. Scott, LA

## VP's Message

As your new Vice President there are a few things I would like to pass along to you. Part of my job is to find programs for our club meetings, I have thought of a few and would like your ideas on these or other programs you might have in mind.

Many years ago, the Opelousas Club did a "Fox Hunt" in the Lafayette Parish area. At that time it seemed that all that took part enjoyed it very much. Maybe this is something to look into.

Many of our members specialize in one form of ham radio or another, satellites, APRS, I-gates, digital (RTTY, PSK, Slow Scan, etc.) the list goes on and on. My favorite is PSK. It is not that hard to set up, don't need any real sophisticated equipment and don't have to do any talking, just using the keyboard and I am sure if you have a computer, this is no problem. So how about someone taking time to do a demonstration at one of the meetings.

Some of the new hams may not have a 2 meter radio at this time but I am sure they have a computer linked to the internet and EchoLink may be one way they can meet the outside world and have fun too.

Another thing I would like to bring up is: Part of belonging to any club is participating in club functions. Don't hide yourself in a dark corner, if you have some ideas that might be interesting to the club, don't hesitate to make it known. It takes more than just a few people to do all the work that needs to be done, there is a place where your talents can be used. Get involved!

(continued on page 2 column 2)

**DATES TO REMEMBER****REGULAR MEETING**Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM

Red Cross Building - 101 N. Pat St.

VE Testing @ 6:00 pm - Door Prizes - Refreshments

**HAMFEST SCHEDULE**

ARCOS Swapmeet-Shreveport May 2

Piney Hills Swapfest-Ruston May 9

**Local 2-Meter Nets****Sunday**

Opelousas Area ARA Net 7:00 PM

146.820 Lafayette, LA

**Monday**

AARA Net 7:00 PM

146.820 Lafayette, LA

Acadia Parish ARES Net 8:00 PM

147.240 pl 127.3 Crowley, LA

**Tuesday**

Acadiana ARES Net 7:00 PM

145.370 - 600 PL 103.5

YL/XYL / Filly Net 7:00 PM

146.820 Lafayette, LA

**Wednesday**

Vermillion Parish ARES Net 8:00 PM

147.060 Abbeville, LA

**Friday**HEAL Net 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays Only 1:00 PM

146.820 Lafayette, LA

**AARA OFFICERS 2009-20010****President - John Cuniff W4JHC**

jhcuniff@cox.net

**Vice Pres. & Newsletter Editor -****Herman Campbell KN5GRK****Secretary - Paul Scallan K5VSH****Treasurer - Joy Breaux N5YCS****BOARD MEMBERS****Charlie Morrison - KI5XP****Sandy LeBlanc - KE5KJF****Nick Romero - KE5MWX****Public Information Officer****Dagmar Whittemore - KE5CGN****QSL Manager****Roland Guidry - NA5Q**The **LARC** is published monthly by the:**Acadiana Amateur Radio Association**

P. O. Box 51174

Lafayette, Louisiana 70505-1174

Regular meetings 1st Thursday of  
each month at 7:00 p.m. at the  
American Red Cross Building  
101 North Pat Street Scott, LA

(continued from page 1 column 2)

I recently purchased a neat little toy. It is a digital voice recorder.

The one I purchased is the Olympus VN3200PC for under \$50.00 at Radio Shack.

The size is 1 1/2" wide x 4" long x 3/4" thick, rather small. It is powered by 2 AAA batteries. It has 128 meg memory which will allow you to record 8 hours high quality audio, 17 hours on standard play, or 52 hours in low quality. The unit plugs into a USB port on your computer for downloading into a Windows Media Player (WMA) file which allows for conversion to other files to be edited.

You have five folders which will hold up to 200 files each depending on size. Each file can be locked to keep from accidental erasure and date stamped. It has a built in electret condenser microphone and dynamic speaker or you can use a external mike and earphones. The recording mode can be "paused" and features a "VOX" to eliminate dead space between recording session.

You are able to erase each file individually or erase a whole folder at one time, providing they are not locked. Playback can be normal speed, slow speed, fast speed or rewind.

Controls are very simple and easy to operate, the LCD display is easy to read. The unit seems to be well built and rugged.

I am truly surprised on what this little recorder is capable of doing. I plan to use this to take minutes at meetings, and record traffic as a backup when on traffic nets.

If you come across something and would like to do a report on the pros and cons, just send it to me to be published in the LARC, just try to keep it down to one column.

I plan to have it at the meeting on Thursday night.

Herman  
KN5GRK

**SkyWarn Net Activated**

On Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> several bands of severe weather crossed the southern part of Louisiana from Texas moving northeast toward Mississippi.

At 1410, the Lafayette SkyWarn repeater was activated and a net started. A message was placed on the 146.820 repeater requesting a switch over to the 145.370 (pl. 103.5) net for weather information.

Herman KN5GRK was the NCS for the net. Fourteen different amateurs checked in and gave conditions such as wind and rain. One amateur radio operator Lyn KC8I was with a group of about 20 Air-stream RV'ers camped at the Wilderness Camp Grounds in northeast corner of Lafayette Parish. Lyn kept the group posted with WX updates from Ed WA5TNK as a tornado watch was in effect.

The net officially closed down at 1900.

These are the ones that checked in on the net during this period.

Ed WA5TNK, Doug KE4GQE, Greg AD5HA, Jim N5NVP, Fred W5MLE, Wayne W5YNW, Ken KD5YWB, Lyn KC8I, Deano KD5JZN, Arnold KE5JXC, Larry KE5KJD, Greg K5LFT, Neil KC5BLQ, and Herman KN5GRK.

Thanks to these persons for taking time from their Easter holiday to help out during these severe weather conditions.



**Mother's  
Day  
May 10<sup>th</sup>**

## New Postal Rate Changes

Effective May 11, 2009 the new postal rates will change. Here is a brief summary of the changes.

### First-Class Mail Price

*Letters – first ounce \$0.44*

*Large envelopes – first ounce \$0.88*

*Parcels – first ounce \$1.22*

*Additional ounces \$0.17*

*Postcard \$0.28*

*Stamped Card \$0.31*

*Stamped Envelope \$0.54*

And while we are on the subject of the Post Office, I would like to say a few words.

Being somewhat a small time stamp collector, I have always put down the Post Office for using their “metered strips” for postage instead of the pretty stamps the post office prints and never use. I always try to use commemorative stamps on all my “snail mail”. If I am mailing something large, I ask for the “high value” stamps. Sometimes the clerks frown on me for asking them to put stamps instead of the metered strips as it takes more time to put stamps. I tell them that I collect stamps and I get some of them back from family members and friends.

Well, I have had a change of heart to a certain extent due to a incident that recently happened to me.

When I mailed out my last batch of “LARC” newsletter on March 30<sup>th</sup>, somehow the check from the club to cover the March postage got mixed in with the newsletters. I had planned to bring it to the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. I looked all over for that check but could not find it.

When I went to the meeting, Joy N5YCS our club treasurer, presented me with the check. The Post Office had found it and sent it to the address on the check.

So don’t give them a hard time, they have a job to do and they seem to do it right!

Herman KN5GRK

## AARA Storage Building

About four years ago, the AARA needed a place to store some of their club equipment. It was decided that a container building would be purchased and put on John Martin’s KA5BSE sister’s empty lot on North University.

Just before John became a silent key, John’s sister wanted to sell the land and therefore the container building had to be re-located. The problem is getting someone to move the building, where to move it, and when weather conditions (dry) to make the move.

Finally, on Thursday morning of April 9, 2009 everything came together. The storage building is now located on the property (with permission) of Danny and Kathy Daigle KD5JSM and KD5TJZ.

Special thanks to James KF5AHM who volunteered his time and the use of his trailer, Monte KE5TEY for the use of his truck to pull the trailer, Weston KB5WI for the farm jacks to help lift and load container, Nick KE5MWX for making sure everyone was safe. The project was completed for 11:30:00 AM. Also thanks to Cathy KD5TJZ who kept the horses calm while we invaded the pasture they call home.

Well I guess I could of mentioned that we used my F-150 to pull the building off, but I don’t like to toot my horn (it does work). Anyway it was a combined effort by everyone. Good Teamwork!

Arnold KE5JXC

## Top AARA Monday Night 2 Meter Net

The top scores so far in the Monday Night 2 meter net out of a possible 17 are:

KC5MMG Ed 17, W4JHC John 16, KD5YWB Ken 16, KD5JSM Danny 14, KE5KJD Larry 14, W5AG Archie 13, and W5YNE Wayne 13.

## PHARA SWAPFEST

Piney Hills Amateur Radio Association

Hot Dog Social Swapfest-Tailgate Party

May 9, 2009

Ruston, LA

Cook Parish Park

2800 Kavanaugh (North Cooktown Road)

<http://www.phara.us>

Talk-In: 147.120 (PL 94.8)

Contact: James Christian, W5JC

555 Pisgah Church Road

Bernice, LA 71222

Phone: 318-285-7417 or 318-990-0888 (cell)

Fax: 318-255-1755

Email: [w5jc@bellsouth.net](mailto:w5jc@bellsouth.net)

## April Meeting VE Test Results

Here are the results of the April 2, 2009 VE session.

Kirk N Brown N1TVF of New Roads, LA upgraded to General.

James B Faulk of Crowley, LA passed Technician. Assigned KF5AHM.

VEs for this session were:

Danny Griffith K5ARH

Rick Breaux N5RLM

Archie Hill W5AG

73’s de Danny K5ARH

## Monroe Hamfest Grand Prize Winners

1<sup>st</sup>—FT-450 - NE5WX Jeff Barnhill, Bastrop, Louisiana

2<sup>nd</sup>—FT-2800 - AA5LA Bobby Baker, West Monroe, Louisiana

3<sup>rd</sup>—FT-60R - W5CNN Cullen Parker, Hornbeck, Louisiana

Check out their Hamfest Photo Gallery Alan W5HUD set up at: <http://w5hud.com/mhf09.html>

## W5EXI Repeater Work

On Sunday April 5, 2009 a antenna party took place at 1:00 PM to repair the DB-224 antenna for the 147.040 club repeater which was blown off alignment during Hurricane Rita.

After rounding up a crew and waiting for proper weather, Wayne Morton W5YNE, supervised this antenna project and had these words to say about the tower climber.

"Randall Magnon was the guy who climbed and corrected the antenna. I have known Randall since 2004 when he was introduced to my tower crew (I was lead hand at the time). After a few disagreements, we learned to work together and have been best of friends since... Randall being Randall refused to let me climb because I was the "ole man" who showed him the ropes, which assisted him to become a top tower hand. Randall did this as a return favor to his "old mate".

At the present time I am trying to get Randall into amateur radio."

To see pictures of this antenna project, the guys that showed up and views of the tower site, go to:

<http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/events/w5exi/>

## New Louisiana ARRL Section Traffic Manager Appointed

It is my personal pleasure to appoint Mike King W5PY Section Traffic Manager for the ARRL Louisiana Section.

Many thanks to Mike for volunteering for this appointment in addition to all the many services that he provides for the Section.

Please, beginning this month, send your traffic net, station activity and PSHR reports to Mike at [W5PY@arrl.net](mailto:W5PY@arrl.net).

Thanks again Mike

73

Gary K5GLS  
Louisiana SM  
[k5gls@arrl.org](mailto:k5gls@arrl.org)

Scott Wren on Alexandria KALB News. Go to the following link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FiliKricweE>

Sorry about the quality, it was recorded on a cell phone and posted on YouTube. The link was sent to me by Jim N5NVP.

ARRL Louisiana Section  
Section Manager: Gary L. Stratton, K5GLS



5/05	HAROLD	KE5UPL
5/06	JOHN	W4JHC
5/11	DEBBIE	KC5VDK
5/19	TREY	KE5VYO
5/24	DIANE	KD5OLQ
5/26	CHARLIE	KI5XP
5/26	KATHY	KD5TJZ
5/28	KATIE	KA6RKI
6/05	KAREN	KE5RPI
6/06	MARK	KE5NTW

Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership applications, this is why some may not be on the list.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The AARA would like to welcome the following first time new members to our club.

Chad Connolly KE5YXE

## May 2009 Special Events & Contests

May 8-25	W9I – Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club Running of the Indy 500.
May 9	N16IW – USS Midway (CV 41) Commemorating Armed Forces Day
May 9	Armed Forces Day Cross Band Test (see QRZ.COM for detailed information).
May 9	FISTS Contest
May 15-17	W1AW/S – Dayton Hamvention and ARRL National Convention.
May 16	Armed Forces Day – Many stations operating special events.
May 16-17	All America Contest.
May 17	K2A – Coastal Defense Day from Sandy Hook Lighthouse.
May 25	W5KID– USS Kid Commemorating Memorial Day, Baton Rouge, LA.
May 25	N16IW – USS Midway (CV 41) Commemorating Memorial Day.
May 30	Kid's Day Roundup Contest.

Check out the May 2009 QST page 80 and 85 or the ARRL website for a more detailed listing of Special Events and Contests.

**2009 DAYTON  
HAMVENTION  
May 15-17 2009**

**ARMED FORCES  
DAY  
May 16, 2009**

**MEMORIAL  
DAY  
May 25, 2009**



## APRIL 2009 ACADIANA AREA 2 METER NET REPORTS

NET	SESSIONS:	TOTAL CHECK-INS:	TOTAL TRAFFIC:	TOTAL TIME: Minutes	Net Manager
OAARC Net - Opelousas Area Amateur Radio Club	4	45	0	91	N5LRZ Ray
AARA Monday Night Net	4	82	1	167	KN5GRK Herman
Acadiana ARES Net	4	29	3	78	N5LRZ Ray
Vermillion Parish ARES Net	5	48	0	110	KE5JXC Arnold
HEAL Net      *(M=Medical G=Guest)	2	* M 7 / G 13	0	120	KE5JKD Larry

Lagniappe . . . is something thrown in, gratis, for good measure.      --Mark Twain.

## Updates

In the April issue of the *LARC*, it was reported that the AARA Hamfest "Foxhunt" winner was unknown. Thanks to Butch Hanks K5GLD, I was told that the winner was Suzy Webb, daughter-in-law of John Webb K5ANN.

Also, it was made known to me that the 147.040 W5EXI repeater mentioned in the April *LARC* suffered the antenna damage from Hurricane Rita on September 24, 2005 and not Hurricane Gustav as reported.

Thanks to those who read the "*LARC*" and report to me.

Herman Campbell - KN5GRK

## Armed Forces Day Cross-band Test

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual military/amateur radio communications tests in celebration of the 59th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day (AFD). Although the actual Armed Forces Day is Forces Day (AFD). Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on Saturday, May 16, 2009, the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications test will be conducted

09 May 2009 to prevent conflict with the Dayton Hamvention (15-17 May 2009), which is the same weekend as the actual Armed Forces Day.

This should be an interesting subject to check out. They are offering some nice QSL cards and certificates to those making contacts.

For more information such as dates, times and frequencies, you can check out the full story on [qrz.com](http://qrz.com)

## Hamvention Live Broadcast

For the 7<sup>th</sup> year now, W5KUB.COM will be broadcasting live streaming video and audio of the 2009 Dayton Hamvention. New this year, we have lots of prizes to give some lucky viewers. We will go live Wednesday May 13 at 1300GMT and broadcast our 500 mile drive live. We will continue broadcasting on Thursday as we set up in the Fleamarket, possibly tour the Air Force Museum, and then for the entire hamvention. The broadcast will end once we get back home to Memphis, TN on Sunday night. In addition to the video, the site has a chat room where you can chat with other hams around the world. We have viewers on in over

150 countries. The site is up 24 x 7 x 365 days per year with recorded ham videos when not in the live mode. The site is:

<http://wa5kub.com> or <http://w5kub.com>

you can also check out the prizes at: <http://tmedlin.com/2009prizes.html> Hope to see you in Dayton or on the web.

Help us to spread the word. 73  
Tom W5KUB

## New Orleans Hamfest Not Cancelled

It was reported earlier that the New Orleans Hamfest had been cancelled, however that is not so at the present time. Apparently have been made and problems resolved.

The NO Hamfest will be on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. The New Orleans Amateur Radio Club will be the main sponsor for the hamfest. We are currently waiting to determine the extent of the Westside and Thibodaux Clubs' involvement. In other news, Tyler KE5WWX the president of NOARC and new Hamfest Committee chairman has announced the raffle of an Amateur Radio every hour during the Hamfest. Check out hamfest site at:

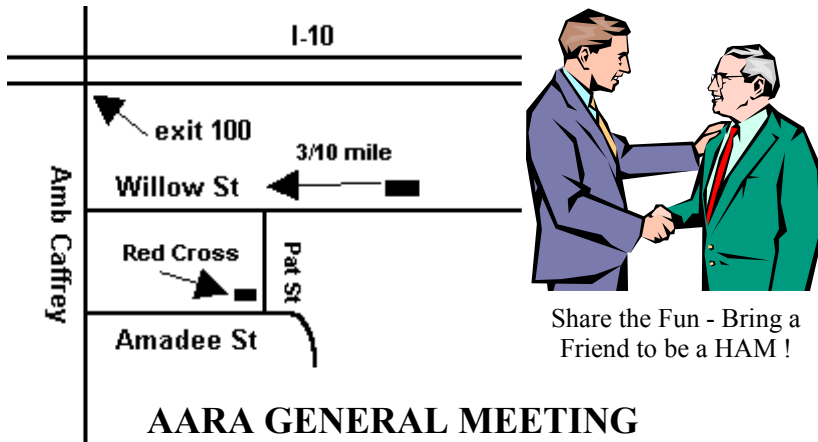
[www.cqtopia.com/nolahamfest/](http://www.cqtopia.com/nolahamfest/)

**Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.**

**P. O. Box 51174**

**Lafayette, LA 70505-1174**

Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>



**AARA GENERAL MEETING**  
**Thursday May 7, 2009—7:00 PM**

**VE Testing at 6:00 PM - Refreshments - Door Prizes**

**Red Cross Building, 101 N. Pat St., Scott, LA**

**Lunch Bunch**

Golden Corral - Amb. Caffery - Lafayette, LA

Check 146.820 - repeater for info.

COMPLEMENTARY  
ISSUE



**Spotted Dick (yes this is a genuine English dish)**

(submitted by Wayne Morton W5YNE)

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 oz plain flour    | 1 oz white or brown sugar |
| 1 tsp baking powder | 4 oz currants             |
| 1/2 tsp mixed spice | 2 oz fresh breadcrumbs    |
| pinch of salt       | 1 egg, beaten             |
| 2 oz shredded suet  | 4 to 5 tbsp milk          |

Butter a 1.5 pint pudding basin. Sift the flour, baking powder, spice and salt into a mixing bowl and mix in the suet, sugar, fruit and bread-crumbs. Stir in the egg and sufficient milk to produce a soft consistency that drops off the spoon in 5 seconds.

Turn the mixture into the pudding basin, which should be two-thirds full. Cover with greased foil or a snap-on lid (the plastic container from a 2 lb Christmas pudding is worth saving for this purpose.) Steam for 2 to 2.5 hours. When cooked, remove the cover and allow the pudding to shrink slightly, then cover the basin with a hot serving plate, hold it firmly and invert. Lift off the basin to leave the pudding on the plate.

Serve hot with custard.

**Custard Recipe:**

- 3 egg yolks
- 1 tbsp caster sugar
- 1/2 pint milk
- 1/4 tsp vanilla essence

Whisk the yolks and sugar together in a bowl. Heat the milk in a saucepan until it is nearly boiling.

Whisk the hot milk gradually into the egg mixture. Put the bowl over a saucepan of simmering water and stir the mixture over the indirect heat until it is thick enough to coat the back of a wooden spoon. (Direct heat will make the custard curdle.)

Stir in the vanilla essence and more sugar, according to taste. Strain and serve hot.

Verification of this recipe can be confirmed at:  
<http://www.englishteastore.com/cak004.html>



**FCC LICENSE INFO  
SERVICE**

The FCC toll-free (WATS) number for Amateur Radio license inquiries - including inquiries about vanity and new call signs. The number, 888-225-5322, will connect callers to the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at 202-414-1250 or [ulscomm@fcc.gov](mailto:ulscomm@fcc.gov).

Web site:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

New callsign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/VEC at 860-594-3000.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec>

The mailing address to the FCC is: Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg PA 17325-7245